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THE BILL OF FARE ON A SPANISH FLEET, 1770

The document appearing below was copied from a printed original in the Archivo de Indias, Seville, its pressmark being 154-7-16. The courses described bear considerable resemblance to those served in Spain today. This document should be considered with Dr. C. H. Haring's *Trade and Navigation between Spain and the Indies in the time of the Hapsburgs*, where many instances are noted of the close surveillance given by the Spaniards in all manner of ways to their American fleets.

FANNY R. BANDELIER.

Los Capitanes, ó Personas comisionadas en las Embarcaciones, que se han flotado para el presente Transporte, deberán subministrar la Mesa à los Oficiales y sus Familias, que à cada una se repartiesen en la forma que se expresará; siendo de cuenta de los mismos Comisionados el costo de todas las Provisiones, y de los Avios, y Utensilios para la subministracion, y servicio de la Mesa.

Desayuno

Un Posillo de Chocolate, con Pan, ó Manteca, ó Queso a cada Individuo de los que tengan Mesa.

Comida

Una Sopa de Pan, y otra de Arroz, Fideos, ú otra especie de Mesa: ambas compuestas con el caldo de la Olla.

Una Olla, compuesta de Baca, ó Carnero, y Tocino, competente, y nada escasa para las personas de Mesa: de uno, dos, ó tres Chorizos, segun se considere necesario: y de las berzas, de Calabaza, Coles, Garbanzos, etc: arreglado á la proporcion de lo que se haya podido embarcar, y de la duracion del Viage.

Dos Principios: el uno de Carnero ó Ternera: y el otro de Ave, segun lo permita la proporcion del buque.

Otro Plato de Encurtidos, ó Escabeche, Anchoas, Ensalada, ú otro equivalente.

Ademas de los Platos que quedan prevenidos, se dará un extraordinario de Jamón, Salchichón, ó Masa, dos dias á la Semana, quando lo permita el tiempo.

Tres Platos de Postres, alternando diariamente las especies, que han de consistir en Aceytunas, Pasas, Almendras, Neuces, Avellanas, y Queso; y entre estas se comprenderá tres Veces á la Semana un Plato proporcionado de Dulee.

Cena

Una ensalada cruda, ó cocida, segun lo permita el tiempo.

Dos Platos, uno de Carne, y otro de Pescado, ó huevos, segun lo proporcionase el Viage, y el tiempo.

Dos Platos de Postres de las especies alternadas, que quedan pre-scriptas para la Comida.

Prevencion

Para la Comida, y Cena se subministrará, sin escasez, Vino bueno: tambien podrá darse para el Desayuno, á quien lo quiera, en lugar de Chocolate.

El Pan de que se habla arriba, deberá ser Vizcocho blanco, semejante al que se dá de Dieta en los Navíos del Rey.

Por si en algunos dias no permitiese el tiempo encender fuego, convendrá que los Comisionados tengan siempre á prevencion algunos Jamones cocidos, con que suplir en la Mesa la falta de Platos calientes; y en estos casos deberán subministrar un proporcionado fiambre de Jamón, un Plato de Escabeche, ó Salchichón, una ensalada de Anchoas, ó Gazpacho, con Queso, y los Postres señalados.

Si sobrevinieren Enfermos, se les deberá dar Puchero, compuesto, para cada uno de un quarto de Gallina, una quarta de Carnero y Garvanzos: una Taza de Caldo ó Sopa, y Dulce de postre.

Supuesto que los Oficiales, sus familias, y demas Individuos de Mesa gozan el Privilegio de comer Carne en los dias de Vigilia, y Viernes del Año (á excepcion de los de Quaresma y Semana Santa) no estarán obligados los Comisionados á dar Comida de Pescado en aquellos dias, respecto de la dificultad que lo contrario ofreciera en la Mar: pero si todos (y no solo una parte) los Individuos de Mesa se conviniesen de comer de Abstinencia, previniendolo el dia antes, se sugetarán á la siguiente subministracion:

Un Potage de Garvanzos, Frixoles, ó Lentejas: un Plato de Bacalao, guisado, ó cocido, ó dos distintos en caso de no haber Escabeche, ó Salmón: un Plato de heuvos, que correspondan á dos ó tres por Persona. Y tres Platos de los Postres señalados.

DON JUAN ANTONIO ENRIQUEZ,
del Consejo de S: M.; su Secretario, y Comisario de Provincia de Marina.

Certifico, que la antecedente es Copia del Arreglo formado en consecuencia de Reales Ordenes por el Señor Don Juan Gerbaut, Intendente General de Marina; y para que conste¹ á los Capitanes de las 31 Embarcaciones flotadas por mi para el presente transporte á la America de los Regimientos de Infanteria de Savoya, Lomardia, Irlanda, Segundo de Cataluña, y dos Compañías de Artilleria, con quienes he ajustado la Mesa diaria de cada Oficial á Razón de Siete Reales de Plata, firmo la presente en Cadiz á 24 de Octubre de 1770.

DON JUAN ANTONIO ENRIQUEZ.

[TRANSLATION]

The captains or other persons commissioned therefor on the ships detailed for the present transport service must provide meals as follows to the officers and their families assigned to the different ships, all provisions, materials, and utensils for the purveying and service of the commissariat being at their expense.

Breakfast

One cup of chocolate, with bread, and butter or cheese, for each persons who has the right of the messroom.

Dinner

A bread-soup and another soup, made either of rice, vermicelli, or other paste—both soups to be prepared with broth or stock.

A stew, to consist of beef or mutton, and salt pork, well made and plenty for all those of the messroom; with one, two, or three pork sausages as may be considered necessary; and with pumpkins, cabbages, chickpeas, etc., prepared in proportion to the amount it has

¹ From this point the remainder of the document is written by hand.

been possible to stow aboard, paying due consideration to the length of the voyage.

Two main dishes, one of mutton or veal, and the other of fowl, such as it may have been possible to stow aboard.

Another course of pickled fish, anchovies, salad, or their equivalent.

In addition to the various courses above enumerated, an extra of ham, sausage, or some kind of paste shall be served twice per week whenever the weather permits.

Three different kinds of dessert, which shall be varied daily, consisting of olives, raisins, almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, and cheese; and in addition an extra of sweetmeats shall be served three times per week.

Supper

A salad, either raw or boiled, as the weather may permit.

Two courses, one of meat, and the other of fish or eggs, according to the length of the voyage and the condition of the weather.

Two different kinds of dessert as above mentioned for the dinner, alternating the several kinds.

Notice

For dinner as well as for supper good wine shall be provided unsparingly, which may also be provided for breakfast to those preferring it to chocolate.

The bread mentioned above is to be white biscuit, similar to the kind prescribed in the provisions of the king's fleet.

In case the weather should become so bad on some days that fires can not be lighted aboard, it will be prudent for the commissaries to have ready at all times a supply of boiled ham with which they can replace the hot dishes. In such cases they shall provide one ample course of cold ham, one of pickled fish or sausage, a salad of anchovies or gaspacho,¹ together with cheese and the desserts above mentioned.

In cases of sickness, each patient shall be served a stew, one-fourth of which shall consist of chicken, and one-fourth of mutton and chick-peas, together with a cup of broth or soup; and for dessert some sweets.

¹ *Gaspacho*. This is an absolutely Spanish dish not even known in Spanish America. It consists of bread or crumbs prepared with oil, vinegar, onions and garlic. In the south of Spain especially they prepare it still more elaborately by adding fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers cut in small pieces, after the bread has been thoroughly saturated by the oil and vinegar, mixed with it. It makes a very tasty and refreshing salad on hot days and it is eaten very often in the middle of the day as a refreshment.

In case the officers, their families, and the other persons who have the freedom of the messroom, enjoy the privilege of eating meat on fast days and Fridays during the year (with the exception of Lent and Holy Week), the commissaries shall not have to provide a fish dinner on such days, because of the difficulty in doing otherwise at sea. But in case all the persons (and not only a part of them) aboard should agree to abstain from meat and shall have given notice the day before, the following bill-of-fare shall be provided:

A soup made of chickpeas, beans, or lentils; one dish of codfish, either stewed or boiled, or the two different kinds in case there is no pickled fish or salmon available; one course of eggs, giving two or three eggs to each person; and three different desserts of the kinds above mentioned.

DON JUAN ANTONIO ENRIQUEZ,
Of His Majesty's Council, his
secretary, and commissary of the
Department of the Navy.

I hereby attest that the above is a copy of the instructions made by virtue of the royal orders by Don Juan Gerbaut, Intendant General of the Navy. In order that it may be regarded as a copy² by the captains of the 31 ships detailed by me for the present transportation to America of the infantry regiments Savoya [*i.e.*, Savoy], Lombardia [*i.e.*, Lombardy], Irlanda [*i.e.*, Ireland], Segundo de Cataluña [*i.e.*, the Second Catalanian], and the two artillery companies—with whom I have adjusted the price of the daily meals of each officer at seven reales in silver—I sign the present at Cadiz, October 24, 1770.

DON JUAN ANTONIO ENRIQUEZ.

² From this point the remainder of the document is written by hand.